

Media Contact:

Jim Schiefelbein, Executive Director | Joel Hall Dancers & Center
jim@schiefenterprises.com | (312) 927-3203 | <http://joelhall.org>

Joel Hall Dancers & Center Elects New Board Chair

(Chicago, IL) Longtime Chicago-based not-for-profit, Joel Hall Dancers & Center (JHDC) has announced Debbie Chanel, as the newly elected Chair of its Board of Directors. Ms. Chanel previously served as Chair of the JHDC Board Development Committee.

After an enthusiastic nomination by outgoing Board Chair Margaret Thomas — the JHDC Board at their Annual Meeting in late February unanimously elected Ms. Chanel as their new leader. Thomas faithfully served as JHDC Chair for the past 15 years. Debbie Chanel will officially commence her new duties on March 21, 2015.

"I'm truly honored to assume this leadership role and humbled by the confidence the organization has shown in me," noted Chanel. "With the 40th anniversary of Joel Hall Dancers & Center now underway — and all of the incredible work that's been accomplished over the years by Joel and his talented team to awaken the dancer in everyone's soul — it's a genuinely exhilarating time to be involved with JHDC. The dedication of our staff, faculty, dancers, parents and volunteers ... and their steadfast commitment to our mission, is an inspiration to me. I look forward to the many opportunities ahead, and all the excitement of our celebration season."

Joel Hall, JHDC Founder & Artistic Director, stated in making the announcement, "We're confident the Board has made an outstanding choice in Debbie Chanel to lead our organization into a new era of growth and opportunity as we continue to fulfill of our mission of using the arts to enrich lives through dance performance & education. Debbie's energy, enthusiasm and passion for our work will be tremendous assets for us, as we celebrate our organization's storied past and move forward into a brighter future."

Chanel has deep professional experience with the worlds of retail and dance, and currently serves as Executive Director/General Manager of Russian Pointe, a leading supplier of dance footwear, apparel, and accessories. She was also the founder and owner of Barrington's "Just The Basics Dance Wear" — a highly successful dance apparel business. Her professional areas of expertise range from operations and business development, procedural management, customer relations, training, procurement and team development.

About Joel Hall Dancers & Center:

Joel Hall Dancers & Center (JHDC) — officially incorporated in 1974 as The Chicago City Theatre Company — targets those who may not otherwise be exposed to the arts — by providing dance classes along with local, national, & international showcase performances.

The Joel Hall Dancers express contemporary urban life through dance while educating, entertaining, and inspiring their audience. The signature dance style of JHD incorporates ballet, jazz, modern, funk, and “street dance” using contemporary jazz and house music to create an innovative and continuously evolving dance style that is appealing, relevant, and approachable for those frequently underserved by the arts.

The Joel Hall Dancers maintain a citywide, national, and international reputation, not only for their diversity and innovation, but also for their substantive sociological content and engaging aesthetic style. Under the leadership of Founder & Artistic Director Joel Hall, the Joel Hall Dancers have carried their unique yet universally accessible voice to venues that span the world. Both JHD and its audience exhibit a rare diversified spectrum of cultural, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Additional information about Joel Hall Dancers & Center may be found at <http://joelhall.org>

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